REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 1, 3-6 and 11-14 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to define the invention more clearly and to incorporate limitations that previously were in claim 2. Accordingly, claim 2 has been canceled. Claim 3 has been amended to define the movable member more clearly. Nonelected method claims 7-10 have been canceled without prejudice. New claims 11-14 have been added. Additionally, all of the remaining original claims have been amended to eliminate the numeric references. Numeric references are not required under U.S. patent law and are given no patentable weight. Accordingly, the amendment to eliminate the numeric references is not a narrowing amendment and is not an amendment entered for purposes of patentability.

The Examiner objected to the original drawings in view of improper cross-hatching. Replacement sheets are submitted with this amendment and show the correct cross-hatching.

The original claims were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,860,826 to Chang. The Examiner identified the elements of Chang that were considered to be found in the original claims.

Chang relates to an electrical connector with a resin housing 51. Two metallic retaining plates 30 are formed respectfully with generally cylindrical axle housings 33. The retaining plates 30 are mounted to the housing 51 of the connector by passing pins 55 through pinholes 54 in the housing 51 and through the axle housing 33 of the retaining plates 30. The Chang connector is separated from the mating

connector by urging rear ends of the retaining plates 30 inwardly and towards one another. However, Chang notes that this engagement by a hand of an operator could give the operator an electric shock. As a result, Chang provide press blocks 40 mounted to the extreme rear ends of the retaining plates 30. Thus, the operator can urge the press blocks 40 inwardly to pivot the retaining plates 30 about the pins 55 to disengage the connector from a mating connector.

The subject application describes an admitted prior art connector that in some respects is similar to Chang. Paragraph 0004 of the subject application describes problems relating to molding, transporting and assembling a plurality of parts. The application noted that the number of operation steps drives up productions costs. Chang has a very large number of parts that must be molded or otherwise formed, transported to an assembly site and then assembled together. Furthermore, the entire operability of the Chang structure appears to rely upon a small apparently fragile hinge connection.

In contrast to Chang, the invention defined by the amended claims herein defines the connector as having a shield at least partly covering surfaces of the housing. The resilient locking piece is defined as being formed unitarily with the shield. Additionally, the movable member of amended claim 1 is defined as being rotatably supported by the shield.

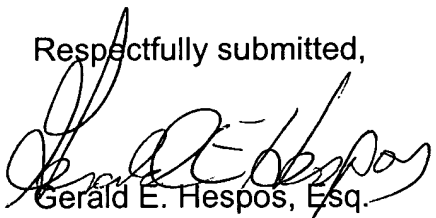
The Chang retaining plate 30 is not and cannot be formed unitarily with the plastic housing of Chang without completely redesigning the Chang connector. Furthermore, the small plastic press blocks 40 of Chang merely are mounted to the rear ends of the retaining plates and move with the retaining plates 30. There is no

suggestion in Chang of a movable member rotatably supported on a metallic shield. Once again, Chang would have to be redesigned completely to bring the Chang structure closer to the claimed invention.

The dependent claims, and particularly the new dependent claims also are not taught or suggested by Chang. In particular, with respect to claim 3, Chang does not suggest a rotatable shaft formed unitarily with the movable member and rotatably engaged in bearing hole of a metallic shield. With respect to claim 6, the press block 40 of Chang clearly does not permit any part of the retaining plate 30 to escape when the retaining plate 30 is moved between the locking posture and the unlocking posture. With respect to the new claims, Chang has no suggestion of a cantilevered resilient lock or a movable member with a wall on one side of the pivot point for engaging and deflecting the resiliently deflectable lock and an operable portion on an opposite side of the pivot point for pivoting the movable member.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the claims remaining in the application are directed to patentable subject matter and allowance is solicited. The Examiner is urged to contact applicant's attorney at the number below to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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